

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 6-13, 16-23 and 26-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11 and 21 were amended to incorporate the features of claims 5, 15 and 25. Accordingly, Claims 5, 15 and 25 are canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

With regard to the Examiner's objections to the specification, the Applicants are attaching a substitute specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.125(a), excluding the claims. A version of the Specification showing the changes made has previously been submitted in the Amendment dated December 10, 2001. Withdrawal of the cited objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-13, 16-19, 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Usami et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,404,426). Claims 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

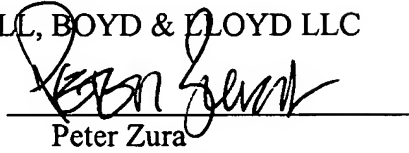
Accordingly, the Applicant has amended claims 1, 11 and 21 of the present application to incorporate the features of claims 5, 15 and 25. In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 11 and 21 of the present application, and all claims that depend therefrom, are both novel and non-obvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is noted that the three-month response period fell on Saturday, June 12, 2004. Accordingly, no additional fees are required. If any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (0113184-0066) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Zura", is written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: June 14, 2004